UNITED
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Security Council

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S/1996/
12 January 1996
ENGLISH
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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 11 January 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the violations committed by the U-2 aircraft.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 11 January 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

We wish to refer to our letters, including the letter dated 6 November 1995 (document S/1995/942) addressed to the President of the Security Council, concerning the violation of Iraqi airspace by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the Special Commission.

We should like to inform you that this aircraft, which always takes off from Saudi Arabian territory, has continued its violations and breaches of Iraqi airspace, infringing thereby our country's sovereignty and security. As of the end of December 1995 it had made 282 overflights, for a total flight time of 1,283 hours, since it began such operations in August 1991.

The facts revealed since this aircraft began to be used, as set out in our aforementioned letters, in addition to the ill repute the aircraft has acquired following earlier spy flights over other parts of the world, require that the United Nations re-examine the issue of continued forcible use of the aircraft by the United States of America to violate Iraq's airspace in a manner totally incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as they relate to respect for the sovereignty of all Member States.

We condemn and deplore these unjustified violations of our airspace. At the same time, we demand a complete termination of these illegal activities, the continuation of which induces Iraq to invoke its rights, under international law, to redress for the damage arising from the violations.

We also take this opportunity to reiterate the offer, made in our 104 letters on this subject to the Secretary-General to date, whereby Iraqi aircraft be used instead of foreign aircraft in the work of the Special Commission in order to exclude any possibility of such foreign aircraft being used for purposes prejudicial to Iraq's sovereignty and security.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq